

CHILD MOLESTATION

Former Poly professor pleads no contest

Brian Koser
MUSTANG DAILY

William Stephen Mott, a retired graphic communication professor, pleaded no contest last week to three felony counts of lewd and lascivious acts on children under the age of 14.

Mott, 68, appeared in a Sacramento County Superior Court on April 19 and was sentenced to 360 days in County Jail and eight years probation. According to court records, the acts took place sometime between October 1995 and May 2001.

An article published in The Tribune on April 22 did not specify the sex of the victims; however, the two are siblings. The father of the victims said the molestations took place in Sacramento during periods when Mott was in the area visiting relatives.

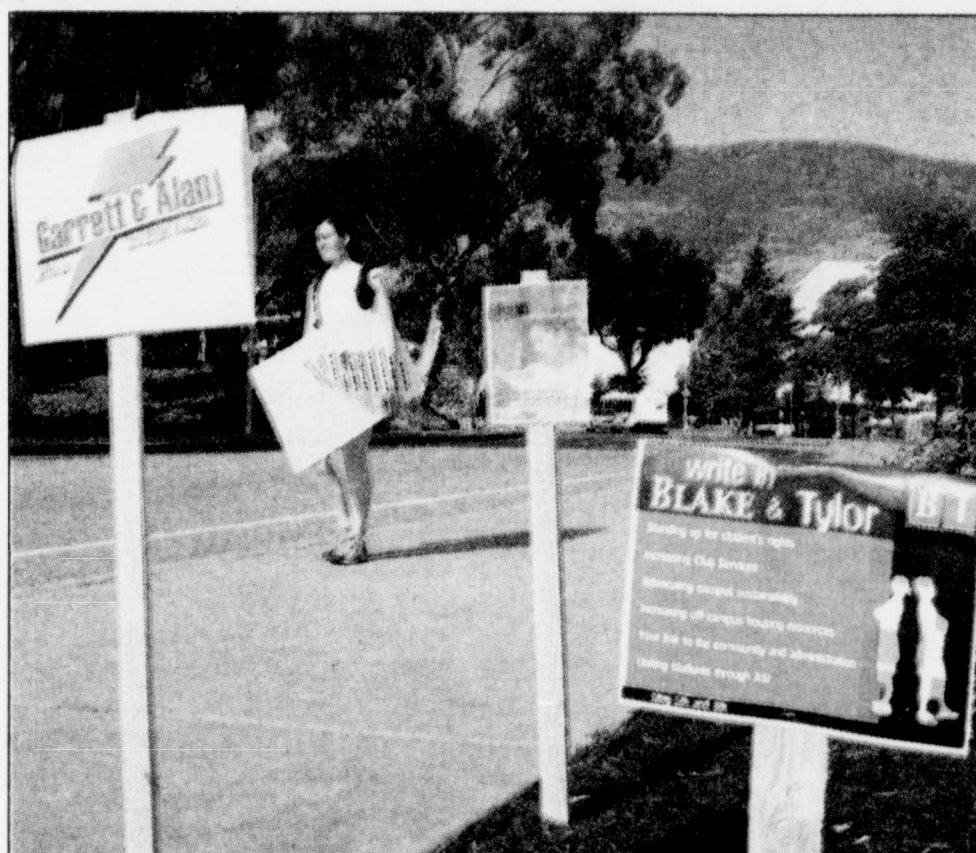
A case file reveals Mott was first arrested in San Luis Obispo County on Sept. 3, 2003, and charges were filed three months later in Sacramento.

Multiple attempts to contact Mott and his attorney, Paul Phillips of Pismo Beach, were unsuccessful.

Graphic communication department head Harvey Levenson said Mott was "great to work with and always did his job."

Levenson added that Mott was one of the world's foremost authorities on printing presses and substrates. He said he was taken by surprise when he heard about the case.

see Mott, page 2



MATT WECHTER MUSTANG DAILY

ASI presidential candidates staked the campus Sunday and Monday with colorful flyers.

ASI presidential campaigns begin

Carrie McGourty
MUSTANG DAILY

Candidates wishing to gain a leadership position in Associated Students Inc. began actively campaigning on campus Sunday and will continue until May 4, the day before election day.

The 10-day campaign involves forums, debates and individual effort on behalf of the candidates to promote their platform to the student body.

"They'll be scrambling around for a week and a half trying to talk people to gain support," said ASI President Alison Anderson, who ran a successful low-budget campaign in the 2003 election.

Campaigners are using a variety

of methods to get their name out to students, including printed materials and word-of-mouth. Fliers are the most common form of campaigning, but some print T-shirts, hold barbecues and make professionally-printed posters, Anderson said.

Candidates are also individually responsible for funding their own campaign, said agricultural sciences senior Jill Rugani, a member on the ASI elections committee.

Business junior Rory Scerri-Marion, the only candidate appearing on the ballot for ASI president, said he raised \$160 for his campaign from contributions from his hometown but is relying on word-

see ASI, page 2

House blaze kills one; alum loses \$60K in fire

Jake Ashley
MUSTANG DAILY

A man in his early 50s died in a fire that burned down a commercial structure on the corner of Roundhouse Avenue and Emily Street on Monday at 1:55 a.m., about a block from Fire Station One. All four San Luis Obispo fire stations reported, along with assistance from the California Department of Forestry.

The blaze was well underway when firefighters arrived, with approximately 40 percent of the structure consumed. Firefighters had the fire controlled by about 3 a.m. The Albertson's Corporation, based in Idaho, owns the building, which used to be part of the old San Luis Obispo City corporation yard.

The man who died has not yet been identified, but San Luis Obispo Fire Department Capt. Greg Otto said he believed the man

leased one of the units that caught fire. According to a San Luis Obispo Fire Department press release, the fire probably started by the victim's habit of smoking while lying on in bed. The man's charred body was found about 15 feet from the burned mattress.

Otto could not give an estimate of damage, but several renters were on hand.

Mark Biedinger, 61, and his son Garth, 29, a Cal Poly graphic communication graduate, stored several vintage cars at the site. Garth estimated that they lost \$60,000 in property in the blaze, none of which was insured.

Otto said that firefighters arrived at the scene early.

"I know that the second alarm, which was called just after the arriving units got on scene, was about 2 a.m.," Otto said.

A second alarm recalls any off-duty firefighters.



SPENCER MARLEY MUSTANG DAILY

San Luis Obispo Fire Station One firefighter Jarl Nerdrum extinguishes the blaze on Roundhouse Avenue.

Supreme Court won't hear school prayer case; reasoning unclear

Anne Gearan
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Two of the Supreme Court's most conservative members delivered an unusual public rebuke to more liberal justices Monday, accusing them of ducking an important church-state fight over mealtime prayers at a taxpayer-funded military college.

Justice Antonin Scalia, joined by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, said the court should have taken the case to answer for the first time whether its ban on school-sponsored prayer for young children and high schoolers applies

Justice Antonin Scalia and Chief Justice William Rehnquist said the court should have taken the case to answer questions

to college students as well.

Scalia delivered a polite but blunt critique of what he suggested are flimsy reasons for avoiding an appeal on behalf of the Virginia Military Institute, the only military college that is part of a state university system.

The VMI case also gave the court an opportunity to rule on the constitutionality of traditional religious observance in military institutions, Scalia said.

"The weighty questions raised by petitioners ... deserve this

court's attention," he wrote in protest.

Writing separately, Justice John Paul Stevens countered that the VMI case may be important, but suffers from procedural and other problems. He said Scalia is "quite wrong" in his characterization of why the court rejected the case. Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer joined Stevens.

With the Supreme Court rebuff, the ruling of a lower court stands. That court said the nightly prayers violate the Constitution's ban on

state promotion of religion.

The court already is considering a major case about religion in schools. Justices are expected to rule by summer on whether the current wording of the Pledge of Allegiance, with its reference to "one nation under God," can legally be recited in public schools.

Scalia recused himself from that case because of remarks that seemed to prejudge the case.

At VMI, the mess hall prayers, one for each night of the week except Saturday, were recited by a student chaplain. The prayers concluded with the phrase, "Now, O God, we receive this food and share

this meal together with thanksgiving. Amen."

Two cadets asked the school to change the prayer ceremony. They sued when VMI refused.

Since the 1960s, the Supreme Court has outlawed official prayer in a variety of public school settings, including classrooms and at high school graduations. The court has pointed to the special circumstances of grade schools and high schools, with their many rules, enforced attendance and young pupils.

By contrast, college students are usually adults and attend school by

see Prayer, page 2

INSIDE

Denzel fizzles the 'Fire'

Child actress saves revenge plot
IN ARTS & CULTURE, page 4

Quality hosts needed

Liberal talk radio misses the mark
IN OPINION, page 6



WEATHER REPORT

TODAY
Sunny 87°

WEDNESDAY
Sunny 79°

Tides

High 4.1 at 3:26 a.m.
Low 0.2 at 11:43 a.m.

SUNRISE 6:15 A.M.
SUNSET 7:45 P.M.

ASI

continued from page 1

of-mouth to promote his platform.

"Our whole campaign is grass roots," Scerri-Marion said.

Anderson said she attributed the success of her campaign to the friends and supporters who were involved. Their total campaign budget was \$500.

ASI president and executive vice president positions are the most prominent positions in ASI. Only one team will appear on the ballot, although two others are running for write-ins, Rugani said.

As a write-in candidate, their names will not appear on the ballot or any ASI-issued printed material.

A specific amount of seats are available per college for the ASI Board of Directors, Rugani said.

There are five representatives among the College of Liberal Arts, College of Engineering and College of Agriculture. Four students will

represent the Orfalea College of Business and three representatives will come from both the College of Science and Math and College of Architecture and Environmental Design, Rugani said.

A candidate forum will be held in the University Union on Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon to give students the opportunity to meet and ask candidates about their platforms.

A candidates' debate will be held May 4 from 11 a.m. to noon in the UU Plaza to give students the chance to ask the candidates questions.

Active campaigning ends for the ASI Board of Directors and president and executive vice president elections at 5 p.m. on May 4.

Elections will take place May 5 and 6, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at various locations on campus.

Students who wish to learn about the candidates can read their statements posted online at www.asi.calpoly.edu.

Prayer

continued from page 1

choice.

The state of Virginia asked the high court to reinstate a decades-old VMI practice of saying grace before the evening meal.

The school was the subject of a previous, hard-fought Supreme Court case over its all-male admissions policy. VMI lost that case in 1996, as Scalia noted dryly in his dissent Monday.

"VMI has previously seen another of its traditions abolished by this court," he wrote. "This time, however, its cause has been ignored rather than rejected — though the consequences will be just the same."

Scalia voted in favor of VMI in the earlier case. Although he did not say how he would have voted this time, he appeared to tip his hand.

Prayer at a military college is more likely to be constitutional than prayer at a nonmilitary one, "since group prayer before military mess is more traditional than group prayer at ordinary state colleges," he wrote.

The back-and-forth between Scalia and Stevens offered a rare glimpse inside the secretive selection process for Supreme Court cases.

The court chooses to hear only a small percentage of all the cases sent to it. By tradition, at least four justices must agree that a given case is worthwhile. The justices vote behind closed doors.

Debate over a prospective case may be vigorous or nonexistent, but to the outside world the result almost always appears the same: A simple, one-sentence notice that "the petition for a writ of certiorari is granted," or, far more often, denied.

By dissenting in the VMI case, Scalia and Rehnquist revealed that, at most, they were able to collect just one additional vote to hear the case. The justices in the court's ideological middle, Sandra Day O'Connor and Anthony M. Kennedy, did not reveal their votes.

One reason to reject the case, Stevens said, was the lack of a clear division among lower appeals courts that have considered similar issues about campus prayer. Such splits often lead the Supreme Court to get involved and make the law uniform nationwide.

Scalia pounced on that reasoning, and he came close to calling his colleagues hypocrites. Of course, there are no cases precisely like the VMI case because there are no institutions precisely like VMI, Scalia wrote.

The case is *Bunting v. Mellen*, 03-863.

Mott

continued from page 1

viction, because Mott seemed to be "straight as an arrow."

Former graphic communications student Jeff Lahodny said he took two classes — GrC 211 and GrC 315 — from Mott at Cal Poly. Lahodny said his former professor knew the material extremely well, yet his classes tended to "be a little dry." He said he learned of the conviction from *The Tribune*, and "was completely blown away" by what he read.

"(Mott) was a super nice and down-to-earth, mellow guy ... He was probably the last person I'd expect to hear something like that about," Lahodny said.

Deputy District Attorney Noah Phillips of Sacramento said two of the charges count against California's "three strikes law." If Mott were convicted of another felony, he could serve the remainder of his life in prison.

Mott taught at Cal Poly from 1968 to 2000, though there is no relation to Robert Mott — the namesake of Mott Gym.

Increasing violence among girls catches educators unprepared

Wiley Hall

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE — Twelve-year-old Nicole Townes is out of a coma but still struggling to recover after being pummeled and stomped at a birthday party in a beating that was shocking not just because of its savagery, but because it was meted out by other girls.

Authorities say it is symptomatic of a disturbing trend around the country: Girls are turning to violence more often and with terrifying results.

"We're seeing girls doing things now that we used to put off on boys," former Baltimore school Police Chief Jansen Robinson said. "This is vicious, 'I-want-to-hurt-you' fighting. It's a nationwide phenomenon and it's catching us all off guard."

Police and prosecutors said Nicole's beating Feb. 28 began when a boy at the party, acting on a dare, kissed the girl on the cheek. The other children exploded with "eewws" and laughter, according to the police report.

The 36-year-old mother of the birthday girl apparently was offended, because the boy was supposed to be her daughter's boyfriend. So the

mother allegedly urged her daughter to "handle your business," an order police said meant the girl was supposed to defend the family's honor.

Nicole was scratched, pummeled, kicked and stomped by as many as six women and girls, police said. She was in a coma for nearly three weeks and is still hospitalized. Her family said she may have permanent brain damage.

Charged in the assault were the birthday girl, 13; her mother; her 19-year-old sister; and three other girls, ages 13, 14 and 15. Police also charged a 24-year-old woman who lived with Nicole with child abuse and neglect for leaving the girl at the party.

"We're just stunned and disgusted and we still can't understand how such a thing could have happened," said the family's pastor, the Rev. Durrell Williams of the Full Gospel Deliverance Church. Williams described Nicole as a timid girl, "not one of your fighters."

School police and teachers are seeing a growing tendency for girls to settle disputes with their fists. They are finding themselves breaking up playground fights in which girls are going at each other toe-to-

toe, like boys.

Violence among teenage boys outstrips violence among teenage girls 4 to 1, according to the Justice Department. A generation ago, it was 10 to 1. Schools report a similar pattern in the number of girls suspended or expelled for fighting.

Experts say the trend simply reflects society. Some say that the same breakdowns in family, church, community and school that have long been blamed for violence among boys are finally catching up to girls.

And some believe the violence is also fueled by the emergence of movies and video games such as "Tomb Raider" in which women wreak violence with the gusto of male action heroes.

The assault on Nicole illustrates how some parents are almost as immature as their children, said Rosetta Stith, principal of a Baltimore public school for teen mothers.

"You keep hearing that phrase, 'Handle your business, Handle your business,'" Stith said. "Now I ask you — What business could a 13-year-old possibly have? But for a lot of girls, it's all about respect, defending your turf, fighting for your man."

Last May, girls were videotaped beating and kicking other girls during a hazing at well-to-do Glenbrook High School in suburban Chicago. And fighting among girl gangs in cities such as Los Angeles and Chicago has educators and community workers scrambling for solutions.

"It's a high-priority topic that resonates with any school, any principal today," said Bill Bond, who heads a project on school safety for the National Association of Secondary School Principals. "I've been to 17 association meetings this year and the topic has been addressed at every meeting."

Lauren Abramson, director of the Community Conferencing Center, a Baltimore agency that resolves disputes through mediation, said one difference between boys and girls is that gossip is more likely to be at the bottom of a dispute between girls.

"Gossip as a source of violence is understudied and little understood," Abramson said. "But time and again, when we bring the parties together, get them to talk and dig into what started it all, it invariably comes back to something somebody heard somebody else said."



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State Briefs

SACRAMENTO — A Senate panel approved a bill Monday that would ban the production and sale of foie gras, a delicacy derived from the livers of force-fed geese and ducks — a practice that animal rights groups decried as inhumane.

Experts on both sides gave conflicting testimony at a hearing of the Senate Business and Professions Committee over whether the birds are harmed by being fed through tubes during the two weeks prior to being slaughtered.

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LOS ANGELES — A spring heat wave blistered the state with record-shattering heat Monday, prompting firefighters to keep a close eye on drying brush and forcing officials to monitor electricity use, as Californians sought refuge at beaches and in swimming pools.

The National Weather Service reported 99 degrees in downtown Los Angeles, eclipsing the record of 91 degrees set in 1972. Other records included highs of 100 in Santa Maria on the Central Coast and 88 in San Francisco, which usually averages 65 degrees this time of year.

A ridge of high pressure camped out on the West Coast and lack of onshore breezes contributed to the heat. Forecasters said temperatures in the 80s and 90s would continue through Tuesday, but cooler weather would prevail by the end of the week.

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SACRAMENTO — Dynegy Inc. and NRG Energy Inc. have struck a deal to wipe out \$270 million in California's unpaid electricity bills and put \$20 million in escrow to repay the state's electricity purchasers for claims related to the California energy crisis, a source close to the deal told The Associated Press on Monday.

The settlement relates to claims concerning refunds and claims the companies charged unjust or unreasonable rates for selling electricity from January 2000 through June 2001.

Houston-based Dynegy and Minneapolis-based NRG Energy have a 50-50 joint venture in West Coast Power. The deal does not settle pending lawsuits, the source said.

— Associated Press

National Briefs

WASHINGTON — Touches of red, blue and yellow are being added to the new \$50 bill, the second of the greenbacks to be colorized as part of an effort to thwart counterfeiters.

The subtle colors, which appear in parts of what was once the cream-colored background on the note, are the most noticeable change on the new \$50, which was unveiled Monday by the Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing, makers of the nation's paper currency.

The new bills are still the same size and use the traditional black ink on the front and green ink on the back. They also still feature Ulysses S. Grant on the front and the U.S. Capitol on the back. But the borders around Grant — the Civil War general and 18th U.S. president — and the Capitol have been removed.

• • •

WHEELING, W.Va. — John Kerry, a decorated Navy veteran criticized by Republicans for his anti-war activities during the Vietnam era, lashed out at President Bush on Monday for failing to prove whether he fulfilled his commitment to the National Guard during the same period.

Conservative critics have questioned whether Kerry deserved his three Purple Hearts for battle wounds, an issue the Democratic presidential candidate sought to put to rest last week by releasing his military records.

On Sunday, a top Bush adviser criticized Kerry for leading anti-war protests after he returned from the battlefield.

• • •

WASHINGTON — The United States will give the Red Cross \$100,000 to help the homeless in North Korea in the aftermath of last week's devastating train collision, the White House said Monday.

The administration also is prepared to provide medical supplies and equipment, as well as a team of specialists in emergency medicine to work with the North Koreans, if needed, a White House statement said.

Despite differences with communist North Korea over its weapons programs and authoritarian policies, the United States has been the largest provider of food aid to the economically beleaguered Asian country.

— Associated Press

World Briefs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A suspected chemical weapons warehouse exploded in flames Monday moments after U.S. troops broke in, killing two soldiers and wounding five. Jubilant Iraqis swarmed over the Americans' charred Humvees, waving looted machine guns, a bandolier and a helmet.

In Fallujah, U.S. troops battled insurgents in the latest violation of a tentative cease-fire for the besieged city. One Marine and eight insurgents were killed.

Marines fought Sunni guerrillas around a mosque in Fallujah's Jolan district, a poor neighborhood where insurgents are concentrated. Helicopter gunships joined the battle, which sent heavy black smoke over the city. Tank fire demolished a minaret from which officials said gunmen were firing.

• • •

JERUSALEM — Mahmoud Zahar, a 53-year-old Egyptian-trained physician whose son was killed in an Israeli airstrike, was identified by Israel on Monday as the new Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip.

Israeli officials signaled he won't be targeted for death if the militant group halts suicide attacks. Hamas, however, refused to reveal the name of its leader for fear he will be assassinated like his two predecessors.

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BEIJING — The World Health Organization said Monday it wants to know how workers at a SARS research lab caught the disease, and Chinese officials quarantined nearly 500 people in hopes of containing the virus.

Two confirmed cases of severe acute respiratory syndrome and six suspected ones have been announced in China over the past week, all of them linked to people who worked in a SARS laboratory in Beijing.

• • •

ANDONG, China — North Korea balked Monday at opening its heavily armed border to relief trucks from rival South Korea, even as international aid groups sought more help for thousands injured or made homeless by a massive train explosion.

As a cold rain fell on the devastated community of Ryongchon, relief workers warned that more food, blankets and medicine were needed immediately in the impoverished nation.

— Associated Press

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Mustang Daily

In Theaters

Denzel fizzles, everyone else sizzles in 'Man on Fire'

Tarrah Graves
MUSTANG DAILY

Set against a gritty but colorful backdrop of Mexico City, "Man on Fire" struggles to set itself apart from every other ransom/revenge movie ever made but saves itself with a strong performance by child actress Dakota Fanning and a strong supporting cast.

Unfortunately, Denzel Washington struggles to set his performance apart from many other movies he has made. Washington plays John Creasy, an alcoholic, withdrawn and bitter Marine-turned-bodyguard sent to protect a little girl named Pita (Dakota Fanning). When Pita is kidnapped, Washington spends much of the movie hunting down the bad guys and taking his revenge.

But the plot isn't that simple and, unfortunately, neither is the camerawork.

Director Tony Scott seemed to strive for a more artsy look to the film — he incorporated shaky camera work (à la Blair Witch), freeze-frames, slow motion and even frames overlaying frames — but only succeeded in detracting from the quality storyline.

What did work for the movie was the creative use of subtitles.

Since part of the dialogue was in

Spanish, the film offered subtitles, continued to show up, artfully placed around the screen, in sporadic scenes to emphasize key moments of dialogue that may have otherwise been lost among the elaborate camerawork.

Despite the sense of déjà vu regarding Washington's performance, he and Fanning have great chemistry.

For the first hour or so of the film, the audience has a chance to see Pita and Creasy bond.

A "strictly business" Creasy becomes enamored with the purity and happiness exuded by Pita. They bond when Creasy coaches Pita on her swimming and offers tips on ways to get out of her piano lessons.

So much time is devoted to building the relationship between these characters so that the audience will feel like Creasy is justified for the violent killing spree he undertakes during the second half of the movie.

Speaking of the killing spree, it is amazing that screenwriter Brian Koppelman could fabricate so many creative and brutal ways for Creasy to kill Pita's kidnappers. It was odd, however, that amidst the bustle of Mexico City, nobody noticed or seemed to care that Washington's character was walking the streets wielding a rocket launcher and

shooting up entire motorcades.

The cast of supporting characters, who were more complex than they first appeared, assisted Fanning and Washington's performances.

A surprising performance by Marc Anthony proves that he is more than simply J-Lo's man of the minute.

And Pita's mother Lisa (Radha Mitchell) leaves the audience wondering if she and Creasy have more than a platonic employer/employee relationship.

In one scene, he asks Creasy to pick her up after dropping Pita off at school to "take her to get her hair done."

Maybe their only bond was that they were both Americans living in another country.

Mitchell's downfall is an on-again off-again Southern-drawl of an accent. I still don't know if that



COURTESY PHOTO

Denzel Washington warms up to Dakota Fanning in "Man on Fire."

was another of Scott's artistic devices or simply a mistake.

Christopher Walken plays a friend of Creasy who lands him the job with Pita in the first place, and then encourages him to set things right by finding and killing everyone involved in the kidnapping.

Walken's performance is subdued, and he seems content to have fallen into another role where he is

overshadowed by a big box-office star like Washington.

Overall, this movie is a must see, though certainly not thanks to Washington's performance.

Fanning is establishing herself as a seriously strong actress who, unlike many other child stars, will hopefully continue to grace the silver screen long after her 13th birthday.

Stephen King film adaptations don't compare to quality of novels

Michael J. Freeman

THE NEWS RECORD (UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI)

CINCINNATI — I can't say I'm a fan of Stephen King's stories and novels. Much like John le Carre, King's writing is hit or miss. Some is wonderfully engaging, but some is mediocre and some just plain tedious.

The same appears to be true of movies based on King's writings.

I was reviewing "The Secret Window" earlier this year when I thought about how many movies there are based on King's work.

According to the Internet Movie Database, there are at least 50 movies

with King's name attached as a writer. And that doesn't include all the TV movies and the like.

That's more movies that I can watch in a week or two, so I selected a few movies to add to those I had seen to see if there's any pattern.

Unfortunately, there's nothing earth-shaking.

The more prominent King's name is on something, the worse it is. For example, Stephen King's "Graveyard Shift" is a cinematic turd. "Stand by Me" is great, and King's association with it is a trivia question.

Most of the time, movies with good 'ol fashioned monsters stink. "Cujo," "Christine,"

"Dreamcatcher," "Maximum Overdrive" and the aforementioned "Graveyard Shift" are bad movies and center around monsters, or at least non-human antagonists.

"Children of the Corn" is one of the movies I watched before writing this column. Why I torture myself like this I have no idea.

I should point out that I watched much of the movie on fast forward because I just couldn't take the pain.

The only thing scary about that movie is that it has sequels.

"Hearts in Atlantis" is worth watching. It's one of those non-horror King movies such as "Stand by Me," "The Shawshank

Redemption" and "The Green Mile" — all of which are good. I can watch "Shawshank" and "The Green Mile" repeatedly and not grow tired of them.

Which of King's horror movies do work?

Well, there's "The Shining." The book is even better, but director Stanley Kubrick made a highly creepy film version. He managed to

even make the sound of the movie creepy with the rumbling of Danny's Big Wheel in the hotel's hallways.

"Carrie" is an odd duck. I liked it, but it didn't strike me as scary. Mostly it's sad — the lead character is abandoned by everyone and then tortured by her peers for no reason.

But don't tell Hollywood that — from all reports they keep giving King fat cash to use his name.

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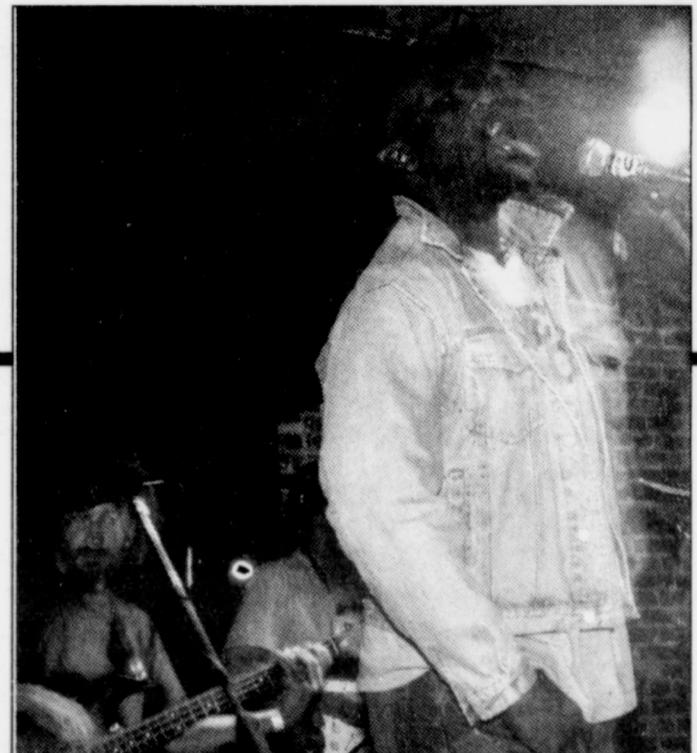
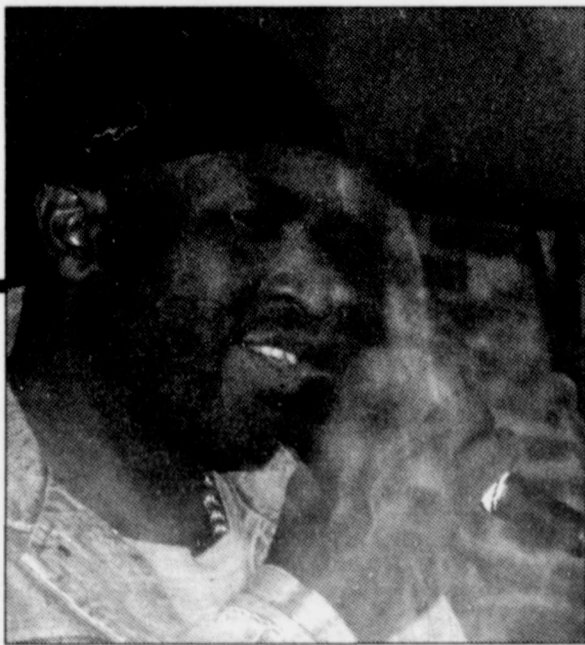
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EEK-A-MOUSE

lights up SLO Brew

The crowd at Club SLO Brew's Thursday-night concert was ready for the Kingston-reared reggae legend. Eek-A-Mouse has made platinum hits out of songs like "Ganja Smuggling" and "Wa-Do-Dem." The hour-plus long show was as addled and unconventional as these shots.

PHOTOS BY SPENCER MARLEY



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Liberal talk radio is not to be feared

Commentary

An acquaintance of mine came up to me a few days ago and said, "You better start looking for new work Holbus, your kind's time is almost up."

At first I was perplexed and worried. Did the nation of France actually decide to come after their enemies? Was a man in a beret coming to take away my deodorant and destroy any chance I have of procreating and passing on my lineage?

Fearful because my chances of reproduction are few and far between to begin with, I pressed him to clarify his statement. He said, "No, Air America is coming, and conservatives are going to lose their stranglehold on talk radio because there is an alternative now."

With my irrational fear that France would defend itself under any circumstances alleviated, I finally had a chance to respond to his question. I said, "You know soy has been a variable option to replace beef as the American staple for years now. Here's the problem: It tastes like crap and people don't like it." The same is true with Air America; it's not a good product.

People aren't going to go to an alternative just for the sake of it becoming available. You have to offer people a quality product and that means quality hosts. Being a good talk radio personality is a skill that one must be innately qualified for, similar to being a good public speaker or being able to write a bimonthly diatribe that is nothing more than a subconscious attempt to cope with a massive inferiority complex (hmmmm, maybe I said too much there).



I do consider myself an expert on politics and humor. That is why I can tell you that Air America, in its current incarnation, will be leaving the airwaves faster than "Mystery Men" left the theaters. Sorry Ms. Garofalo, looks like your guest role on "Seinfeld" is still going to be your crowning achievement.

Air America's voice talent (and I use the word "talent" in the loosest sense of the word) is terrible. Let's take their lead man Al Franken as an example. First, I can't even find one liberal who

will admit they have ever seen or heard Franken do anything funny (with the exception of the Jordan thing on SNL). Franken's show on Air America is called "The O'Franken Factor: The Zero Spin Zone." Puns suck, and that's not even a good pun.

At this point in the column, I would love to take a successful endeavor Franken has done and change the name to show how ludicrous his spoof of Bill O'Reilly is. But here is the problem. Franklin has never had a single successful endeavor. He wrote "Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot" that reached The New York Times best sellers list, but to be fair so did Mick Foley from the WWE, I read both books and Foley's was better.

Here is the sad reality of Air America: Air America's lead talent is the man who made "Stuart Saves his Family."

Look, personally I don't think the liberal message is compatible with the format of talk radio. I don't think people want to hear over and over again that the American way of life is inherently racist and that we are an evil society run by evil people who want nothing more than to enslave minorities and tell women how to run their lives and bodies. However, that is just my opinion, and even though I am ungodly arrogant, I am not naive enough to think that I am an expert on what American will and will not like. Who would have thought a gay dress-up show would have caught on?

Nonetheless, I still fear Air America taking over the American airwaves about as much as I fear the mighty superpower of France taking over American airspace.

John Holbus is a political science senior and Mustang Daily columnist.

What ever happened to supporting the liberal arts?

Commentary

Where has the funding for the arts gone? Music and theater programs are being pushed out of high schools and universities in place of better, more up-to-date athletic programs and facilities.

I ask myself this question: Why? It seems simple, but the answers are much more complicated and confusing to the fanatic liberal arts lover that I am.

I remember my high school switching to block scheduling as I was entering my junior year. This change left my interest and love for music less fulfilled. As classes were cut from eight to four a day, music rehearsal was sparse and unbalanced. Like any other talent or activity, it needs to be practiced and warmed up daily, not every other day or twice a week.

Would we expect football and basketball players to only practice on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays?

It seems that the first class to get put on the back burner is music. The school's excuse? It is not a class that helps with the enrichment and preparation for a college education.

Academics are the priority, which is a great thing, but when a school cuts out one of the only outlets for students to release and grow vocally

and theatrically, I have my objections.

So I went to college, hoping that things would be different. I realized that the music department was vigorously focused and the level of expectation was higher than the high school level (which is expected of higher education), but importance placed on music was still at the bottom rung of learning.

There are no scholarships for students who aren't music majors and whose musical caliber isn't near perfection.

Along with the lack of financial assistance, the music and theater departments also ask many long and trying hours upon hours of devotion and hard work that most teachers can't even consider demanding from their academic students in non-performance programs.

The classes require between three and five hours a week, but the students only receive (typically) one credit for their time and effort (basically volunteer work for their talents).

When music is such a popular form of expression, I wonder why it is only appreciated at the celebrity level. We watch MTV and VH1 and

marvel at the talents of singers. Why does music only get noticed at the national level and not recognized locally?

I wish that university choirs, orchestras and bands could have a better building to house all their needs and latest technologies.

I wish that faculty and students would realize that without their financial support (buying tickets or donations to the program), music will

Without support for the performing arts at the university level, many talented and gifted students' lives would change for the worse.

slowly disappear. Musical ability is a treasured talent and, in my opinion, just as important and worthy of the recognition the football and basketball teams receive every season.

Without support for the performing arts at the university level, many talented and gifted students' lives would change for the worse.

Try giving time and money to music, it will be completely worth your while.

Kimberly M. Tolson is a writer for the Daily O'Collegian at Oklahoma State University.

Letters to the Editor

Anderson said it best

From "Students approve fees" (April 20), "Obliviously at ASI we are going to bring the students concerns to the forefront," ASI President Alison Anderson said."

Considering how little was known about these fees before the vote, I'd say you couldn't have put it better.

Bob Lawson is a physics junior.

Fee vote was coerced

Very few things in my years at Cal Poly have made me as angry as the recent passing of the newest fee increase. The athletic fee will not benefit the majority of the hard-working

student body. Many of us will be forced to work extra hours to earn money to be given to others for the sole purpose of playing games.

The main reason I feel this fee should never be enacted is the coercion by the athletes at the polling stations. How can a vote be impartial when large intimidating people are surrounding you and telling you how to vote? This easily could account for the slim 3 percent margin the referendum passed by. There was also blatant lying done by the fee supporters. They claimed that without the funds there would be no more sports at Cal Poly, but the vote was only to give out more scholarships. How can not giving a select few students a free ride

end sports as we know it? We were also grossly misled on how much of our money is already going to sports funding. It's a lot more than the \$4 they claimed.

I find it incredibly irresponsible of the university to even consider giving free money to athletes when they are cutting summer school and teaching staff. Cal Poly has never been an athletic school and any efforts to change that are misguided. We are one of the top ranked academic schools in the country, yet some people still feel this should take a back seat to the sports that only a small minority of students participate in.

Sean Indman is a mechanical engineering senior.

Letters Policy

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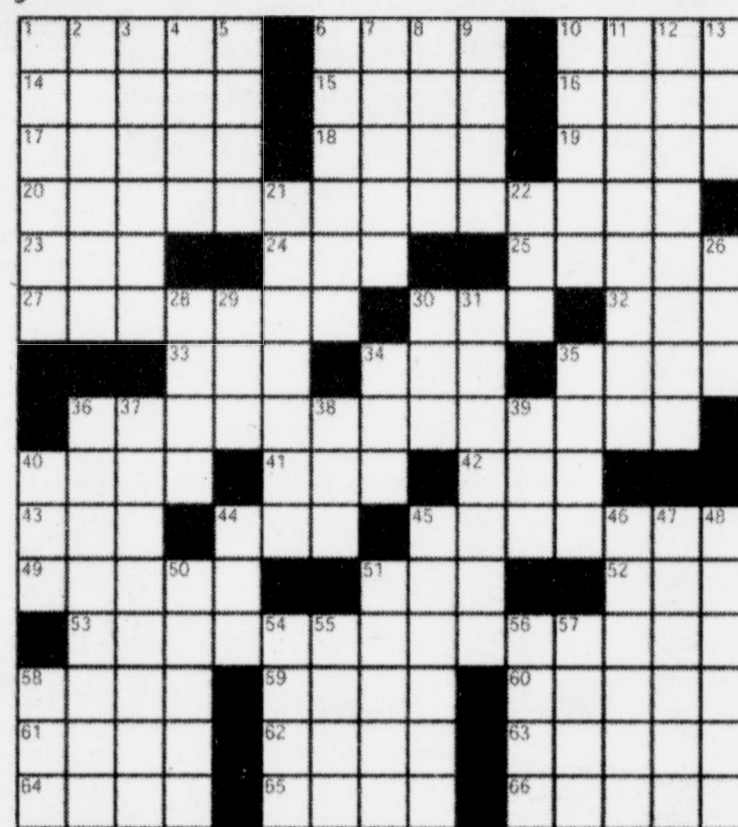


The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0316

- ACROSS**
- 1 Talk like Jimmy Stewart
6 Minnelli of "Cabaret"
10 Frozen waffle brand
14 Noted Montague
15 First father
16 Potting need
17 Jellied garnish
18 Glazier's unit
19 Ditto, with "the"
20 Kingdom's dock?
23 Suffix with musket
24 Tic-tac-toe winner
25 Poet Elinor
27 Invent
30 Enzyme suffix
32 Baseball playoffs mo.
- 33 Mikhail of chess
34 Adage
35 Home of the Blue Devils
36 Municipality's dock?
40 Part of a financial portfolio
41 Yale, for one
42 Q-Tip target
43 Put down, on the street
44 Place where you can get into hot water
45 No less than
49 Looks out for, at a heist
51 Commotion
52 Early Beatle Sutcliffe
53 Country's dock?
58 Diva Gluck
59 Breakfast food chain
- 60 Back, at the track
61 Depend (on)
62 Barrel of laughs
63 Hosiery hue
64 Breyers competitor
65 Adds (up)
66 Photographer Adams
- DOWN**
- 1 Hung loosely
2 More upbeat
3 Fuse unit
4 Small dam
5 Lead-in to motion
6 Traveler's work aid
7 Potato state
8 Billy of "Titanic"
9 From the U.S.
10 Composition with a viewpoint
11 Give 100%
12 Gadget-laden
13 Grand ___ Opry
21 Ball that may hit an umpire
22 Meadow mother
26 Summer in Suisse
28 Just slightly
29 Indianapolis 500 time
30 Sound of relief
31 Fond of
34 Farm pen
35 Calamitous



Puzzle by Ron Sweet

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

LOWES WASPS AMP'S
OAHU ALLIN DOLE
ITOLDYOUO ALEX
SHAKESPEAREPLAY
SCI NEST
ASH ADAM SALSAS
THE IDES OF MARCH
WORSE OVI BLOOP
AVON MAR FIFTEENTH
RENTS NEED AHA
STAG EEEK
FAMOUS LAST WORDS
IBAR SOOTHSAVER
JEER ARNIE LEFT
ITSY DYERS ASTA

- 36 Nitpicked
37 Socially improper
38 Future aves?
39 Record-setting Ripken
40 Pharmaceutical-safety org.
44 Retired flier
45 Changes to fit
46 "The way things are ..."
47 One of a slapstick trio
48 Prison escape route, maybe
50 Cafeteria carriers
51 Underway
54 "Java" player AI
55 Home to Columbus
56 "Chiquitita" quartet
57 Freshman, usually
58 "You ___ here"

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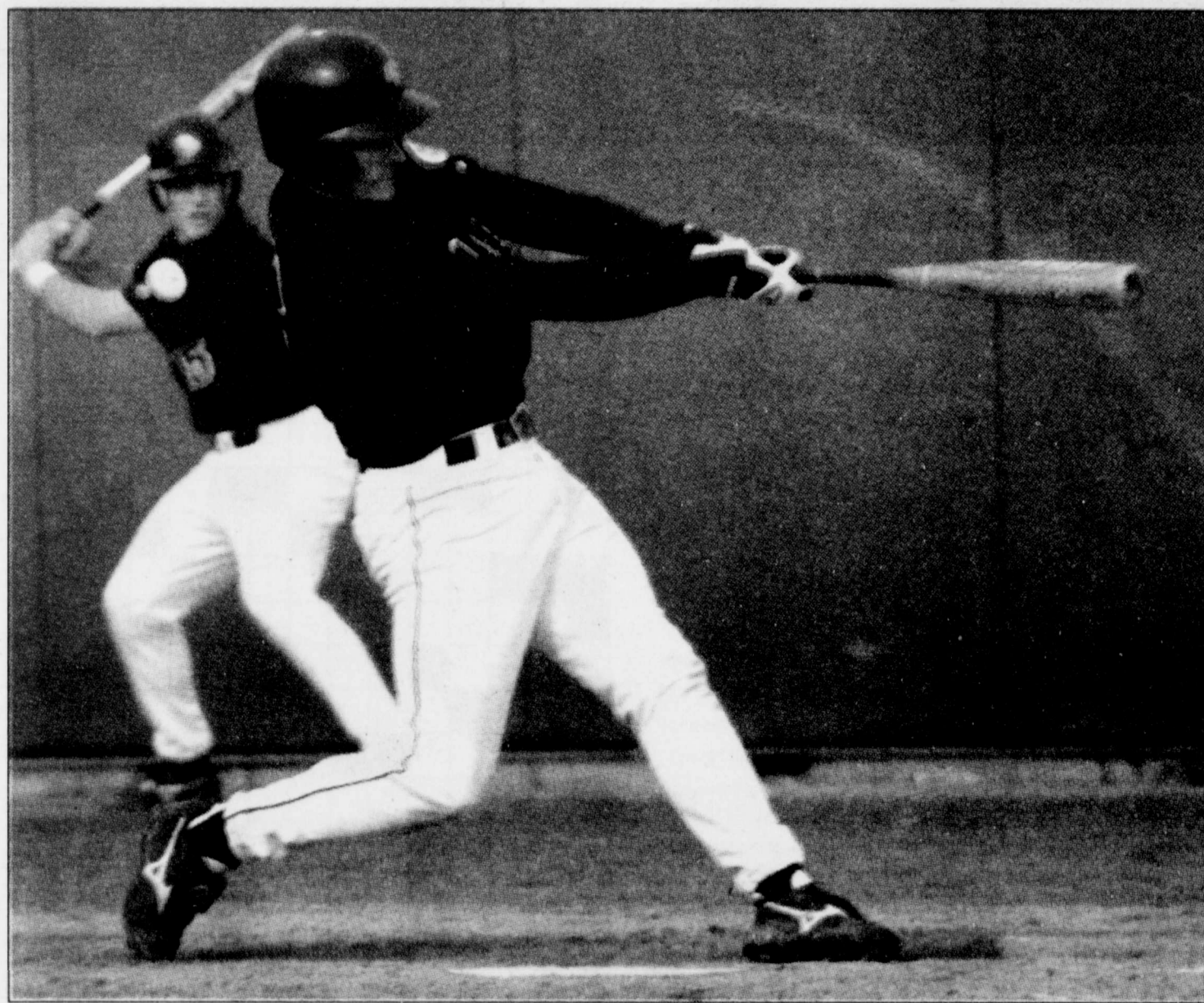
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49ers strike gold in sweep of Mustangs



FILE PHOTO MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly fell to 5-4 after three straight losses to Long Beach State. The closest game was Sunday 4-1 loss.

Mustangs get destroyed in three games against Big West's perfect team

Spencer Marley

MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly's baseball team was swept by Long Beach State in a three-game series this weekend. The 49ers' superior pitching proved far too much for the Mustangs to handle.

In reference to Sunday's 4-1 defeat, coach Larry Lee stressed the talent of the Long Beach hurlers.

"We were up against the best pitching staff in the nation," Lee said. "There were so few opportunities for us with the right guys at the plate. Our hitting was shut down."

Mustang pitcher Tony Saipe lost control in the third inning, allowing four hits and four runs.

Dennis LeDuc replaced Saipe in the third inning and allowed no runs for the rest of the game.

The 49ers' pitching staff combined for 12 strikeouts compared to the Mustangs' three.

Second baseman Adam Leavitt was able to drive home catcher Cory Taillon in the fifth inning for the Mustangs' only run.

Leavitt felt the team was ready to win the last game of the series,

but that the 49ers were far too fierce opponents.

"After the first two losses, we were ready to go for Sunday's game," Leavitt said. "It just wasn't enough to beat a team with that kind of pitching."

Lee agreed that the 49ers were too much for Cal Poly's lineup.

"Long Beach was a great team, and there really wasn't much we could do about the losses," Lee said. "It's a little late in the season for us to make any drastic changes in our strategy, but we'll do our best next weekend."

The Mustangs will face Cal State Fullerton in a three-game Big West Conference series next weekend in Fullerton. Cal Poly is currently 33-16-1 overall.

Mustangs get pounded

Cesar Ramos pitched seven innings for his eighth win and left fielder John Bowker continued his torrid hitting in the series with a 4-for-5 day at the plate as Long Beach State beat Cal Poly 15-6 on Saturday before 1,139 in Baggett Stadium.

Bowker, who homered twice Friday night, had a triple, double and two singles, driving in a pair of runs for Long Beach State. First baseman Mike Hofius had three hits, including a three-run home run, and drove in five runs

as the designated hitter

Six Mustangs took turns on the mound — sophomore southpaw Garrett Olson surrendering eight runs and eight hits in 2 2/3 innings as he fell to 7-4 on the year.

Cal Poly had one look at the game, scoring four times in the third inning to cut Long Beach State's lead to 9-4. Sam Herbert singled to drive in one run, Adam Leavitt singled to knock in two more and Chalon Tietje's sacrifice fly tallied the fourth run.

Weaver dominates

Junior right-hander Jered Weaver struck out 14 and scattered seven hits over seven innings to lead Long Beach State to an 11-5 victory over Cal Poly in the opener of a Big West Conference baseball series Friday night before a record crowd of 3,274 in Baggett Stadium.

Weaver (12-0) gave up a season high in runs scored with five, but only two of the runs were earned as Long Beach State committed three errors. Weaver walked one. Brian Anderson and Scott Juneau each pitched an inning in relief for the 49ers.

The 49ers, who scored in seven of the nine innings, added two runs in the fifth, one in the sixth, two in the seventh and one in the ninth to win going away.

MUSTANG NOTEBOOK

Briefs

Softball wins two of three

The Cal Poly softball team defeated the Gauchos 7-1 and 6-0 in a Big West Conference double-header on Sunday. The Mustangs snapped UC Santa Barbara's seven-game winning streak. The Mustangs are now 17-24 overall and 5-7 in the Big West Conference and the Gauchos fell to 25-26 overall and 7-4 in conference.

In the first game Roni Sparrey and Amy Jo Nazarenus hit doubles for the Mustangs. Sparrey went 3-for-4 with one RBI, while Nazarenus pitched in with two hits and two RBIs for the Mustangs. UC Santa Barbara came up with just five hits to Cal Poly's 11, including a home run from Kendra Singley.

Emily Hively went the distance for the Mustangs, allowing one earned run and walking only one. With the win, Hively improves to 7-12 for the season.

The Mustangs kept swinging in the second game as they blanked UC Santa Barbara 6-0. Lisa Modglin led Cal Poly with two hits and one RBI in the win and Jackie Gehrke-Jones went 1-for-3 with two RBIs.

UC Santa Barbara defeated the Cal Poly softball team 3-2 at Campus Diamond on Saturday. In the first inning, UC Santa Barbara's Leslie Simien scored off of a passed ball by Cal Poly's Chelsy Stoufer. The Gauchos made the score 2-0 in the second inning by scoring Brittany Putich on a sacrifice fly by Simien.

The Mustangs came back to tie the game at 2-2 in the sixth inning after Stoufer walked to lead off the inning. Kristi Alvers was hit by a pitch to advance Stoufer to second. Kelly Comstock and Rebecca Ramos entered the game as a pinch runners for Stoufer and Alvers, respectively. Chelsea Green then stepped up to the plate and hit a double to right-center, scoring Comstock and moving Ramos to third. Ramos then scored on a wild pitch by UC Santa Barbara's Lindsey Herrin.

But the Gauchos would come back in the bottom of the sixth to take the lead for good. With one out, Heather Nobbe hit a single up the middle and advanced to third when Roni Sparrey mishandled the throw from Gehrke-Jones on a ground ball by Lindsey Herrin. Katie Oliver hit a sacrifice fly to left field that scored Nobbe and gave the Gauchos the lead for good.

Women third in Big West

The Cal Poly women's tennis team took third place in the Big West Women's Tennis Championship with a 4-1 victory over Pacific on Sunday at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden.

The Mustangs won two of the three doubles matches to clinch the

doubles point.

In singles action, Cal Poly won matches at the No. 2, 5 and 6 spots to finish out the match. Junior Chelsy Thompson cruised to a 6-1, 6-2 win over Katharina Heil at No. 2. Noelle Lee won her match at No. 5 against Urska Dvorsek, 6-1, 6-3. Erickson was a 6-2, 6-3 winner over Nicole Sakai. The Tigers secured their lone point of the match at No. 3, as Natalia Kostenko earned a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Lewis.

Men fourth in conference

The Cal Poly men's tennis team lost to UC Irvine, 4-1, to earn fourth place at the 2004 Big West Men's Tennis Championship at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden on Sunday afternoon.

In singles, UC Irvine won four out of the five matches that were completed. The Mustangs earned their point at the No. 3 spot, as Nick Tracy downed Ryusuke Kashiwabara, 6-4, 6-3. The Anteaters' Jon Endrikat earned a 6-4, 6-3 win over Brett Van Linge at the No. 1 and Brian Morton outlasted Matt Baca, 6-4, 6-4, at the No. 2 position. The lone three-set match occurred between Renouk Wijemanne and Travis Crawford at No. 5, with Wijemanne taking the 6-3, 1-6, 6-0 victory. The Anteaters also won at No. 6 when Peter Surapol beat Adrian Mardys, 6-3, 7-5.

Men's track wins UCSB meet

The Cal Poly men's track and field team defeated UCSB while the Cal Poly women's team lost to the Gauchos in a dual meet on Saturday on the UCSB campus.

Twelve Mustangs won individual events and two relay events as the Cal Poly men's track and field team defeated UCSB 117-77 on Saturday. The women's team lost 101-95.

Senior Jon Takahashi won the pole vault by nearly two feet when he cleared 17-02.75. Mark Martello from UCSB was second with a height of 15-05.75. Mark Dorigi won the triple jump with a mark of 42-09.25 and Kevin Van Houton won the discus with a throw of 140-08.00. Van Houton made it a double with a win in the javelin with a mark of 169-09.75. Chris White rounded out the field event winners for Cal Poly with a win in the shot put with a mark of 55-00.50.

In the track events Luke Llamas won the 3,000-meter steeplechase in a time of 9:21.76 while fellow distance runners Ryan Moorcroft won the 1,500 meters in a time of 3:45.41 and Jeff Porto won the 5,000m in a time of 14:55.68.

In the sprints Paul Adams won the 110m hurdles with a time of 14.97 while Travis Morse won the 100meter in a time of 10.60. In the 400-meter hurdles Tracy Sessions won with a time of 52.69 and Paul Edwards won the 200

SCORES

Baseball (4) vs. Long Beach State (1)

Cal Poly — lost six straight to 49ers

Softball (7) @ UC Santa Barbara (1)

Roni Sparrey — 3 for 4, RBI

W Tennis (4) vs. Pacific (1)

Cal Poly — Third at Big West

M Tennis (1) @ ITA Regionals (4)

Cal Poly — Fourth at Big West

M Track & Field (117) @ UC Santa Barbara

Jon Takahashi — won pole vault by nearly two feet

SCHEDULE

M Golf @ Big West

mon.-tue., april 26-27

Baseball @ Cal St. Fullerton

fri.-sun., april 30-may 2

Softball vs. Cal State Northridge

sat.-sun., may 1-2

Baseball @ UC Irvine

fri.-sun., may 7-9

Track & Field @ Stanford All-Comers

sat.-sun., may 8-9

Today's Question

When was the last time the Dodgers won the NL West?

Yesterday's answer: Dale Long, Ken Griffey, Jr., and Don Mattingly homered in the most consecutive games. Congrats to trivia king Zachary Lelevierjoseph.

Sports editor Sean Martin can be reached at 756-1796 or mustangdaily@sports@yahoo.com